

DC BATMAN

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BATMAN

WITH ROBIN THE TEEN WONDER

NO. 237
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A
HAUNTING
HALLOWEEN
NOVEL

NIGHT
OF THE
REAPER!

EXTRA-SPECIAL!

A **BATMAN**
SOLO STORY FROM THE
FABULOUS FORTIES!

48 PAGES 25¢ RINGER AND BETTER

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IT IS DARK IN THE VERMONT WOODS THIS OCTOBER EVENING... DARK EXCEPT FOR THE PALE, GOLD GLOW OF A BLOATED MOON SHINING THROUGH BRANCHES WHICH PLUCK AT THE SKY LIKE DEAD FINGERS... AND A LIGHT ATOP A DISTANT MANSION BLINKING LIKE AN EYE OF BLOOD, BLINKING, BLINKING...

AND THERE ARE SOUNDS... SCRAPINGS, RUSTLINGS... THE WHISPER OF BREEZE IN THE BRUSH--OR THE STIRING OF SHROUDS? NONE IS ABLE TO HEAR...

...BECAUSE THERE IS ALSO **DEATH** IN THIS PLACE! THE MASKED **FIGURE OF THE BATMAN** LEANS AGAINST A BIRCH, UNMOVING, UNBREATHING, GROWING STIFF AND COLD AS THE DARK... A VICTIM OF THE...

NIGHT OF THE REAPER!

ART BY NEAL ADAMS
& DICK GIORDANO
STORY BY DENNY ONIZ
(FROM AN IDEA BY
BERNIE WRIGHTSON
WITH AN ASSIST
FROM HARLAN
ELLISON)
EDITED BY
JULES SCHWARTZ

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BUSINESS & FESTIVAL
BRISTOL, THE U.K. THE
MUSIC, ROAD
WILLIAMS MUSIC

I STRIKE DON'T SEE WE
YOU RELEASED US. IT WERE
POSSIBLE TO SEE A BUNCH OF
DOLPHINS IN THE MIDDLE
OF THE OCEAN?

I THOUGHT I'D BE
NICE TO GET AWAY FROM
HERE. WE WERE
COULDN'T STAND
FOR THE WEEK!

I'M WITH YOU
TO THE FUN AND
RESPONSE. WE
WANT TO SEE
SOME GAMES!

OH, MAN,
DID THE
MUSIC!

ALL THE OTHERS PLACED, BEHIND THE
FACES BEHIND A BIG TIE OF RESEMBLING
STRONGER BUT THEN WERE EVER REALLY
RELIEF!

I'M HOPING ASK
IN ROOMS ARE
WE'S A LOT OF
A MESS!

WE SHOULDN'T HAVE
THE NOT AFTER
STAYING HERE THREE
DAYS. DRAWING FOR
THAT ART TEAM.

POST AND
SLEEPING DOWN
AND AND
THINGS ARE
EASY TO KEEP
AND EVERY
OPEN.

MAN, THOSE
PLAYS ARE
SO GOOD. NO
GUESS.

I HEAR THERE'S A PARTY AT
JIM HARRIS' HOUSE OUTSIDE
TOWN. WANT TO GO?

SURE,
WHERE A PARTY
IS. GUESS IS?

YEAH, I NEVER
SHOT AND LIGHTS
BEFORE.









OH, DEAR LORD...
HE'S DEAD!



NO... THIS POOR GUY'S BEEN *MURDERED*.
ALL RIGHT—BUT HE'S *NOT* **THE BATMAN!**

THE COSTUME IS
CHEAP, SHODDY... MUST
HAVE BEEN *PAINTED!*
HE'S ONE OF THE
PARTY-BOYERS!



THE MOONLIGHT'S
SO DIM I CAN'T READ
THE GROUND FOR
FOOTPRINTS! WE MAY
HAVE TO WAIT TILL
MORNING FOR CLUES...







REFLEXIVELY, HE
DODGES THE
WHISTLING BLADE...



HIS BOOT CATCHES ON
A DEW-WET STONE...



FLAILING DESPERATELY,
HE PITCHES BACKWARD
OVER THE LIP OF A
STEEP INCLINE...



AND TUMBLES TO
A CLUSTER OF
ROCKS IN A SHIFT-
RUNNING STREAM
BELOW...



A MOMENT OF BLINDING
EXPLODING PAIN...AND
NUMBNESS...AND STUNNEDNESS...
AND WATER FILLS HIS
NOSTRILS, HIS LUNGS...

HAN, I JUST
GOTTA FIND
SOMEONE TO
RAP WITH
ABOUT
FLOATS!



SLIPPERY, A CAPED SHADOW
SWELLS FROM THE DARKNESS—
THE **ATHEIST BATMAN**...

HEARD SCUFFLING FROM
THIS AREA! HARD TO TELL
EXACTLY ~~WHO~~ MADE
THE NOISE WITH THAT
STREAM GURGLING...

ROBIN--!?
OR A KID WHO
COULD BE
HIS **DOUBBLE**!

PRAY
I'M NOT
TOO
LATE--

IS... IS IT
REALLY
YOU--?

EASY, LAD!
SAVE YOUR
STRENGTH--
I'M TAKING
YOU TO A
DOCTOR!

AS THE **BATMAN** CARRIES HIS
WARD TO THE SPRAWLING OLD
MANSION OF **TIM DRAKE**, THE YOUTH
STUMBLY RELATES HIS STORY.

SOON, IN A VACANT BEDROOM--

DO YOU MAKE ANY
SENSE OF THE WEIRD
STUFF GOING DOWN?

I CAN'T EXPLAIN
THE ATTACK ON THE
BOY DRESSED
AS YOU... NOR
THE MURDERED
MAN WEARING
MY COSTUME--

IS POSSIBLE
I CAN, **ATHEIST
BATMAN!**

ROBIN: EET
DOCTOR GRUENER!
HE'S THE REASON
I'M HERE

JA, S' TRUE YOU
SEE YOUNGMAN,
I AS ONCE AN
INMATE OF A NAZI
CONCENTRATION
CAMP IS A PIRATE
RUN BY COLONEL
FORT SCHLOSS!

I'VE HEARD OF
-HIM, THE ONE
THEY CALLED
THE BUTCHER!

JA, IS A GOOD
NAME, TOO
SCHLOSS LOVED
TO HUMILIATE
FORT - RE... AND
KILL!

A WEEK AGO
I HAPPENED
TO BE IN COSTUME
SHOP BUYING
OUTFIT FOR MY
DAUGHTER'S
BIRTHDAY.

...AND I
SEE
SCHLOSS.

ZUR CLERK IN ZUR
SHOP TELLS ME HE
RENTED HIM PIRATE
SUIT! ADDRESS ON
SALES IS IT'S
GENERAL DELIVERY,
RUTLAND, VERMONT!
I REPORT TO
AUTHORITIES.

IT'S KNOWN
THAT SCHLOSS
HAS A PASSION
FOR A PIRATE-
PARTIES

AND YOU
EXPECT HIM
TO SHOW
TONIGHT?

HEY! NAY!
FOR ME -!

NEGATIVE
SCH, YOU'RE
NOT! I
NEED REST!
STAY IN!
I'LL KEEP
YOU POSTED

BUT HOW DOES
THAT EXPLAIN THE
FRACAS ON THE
STREET?

FOR YEARS NOW, SCHLOSS &
UNDERLINGS HAVE TRACKED
HIM. HE LEFT GERMANY WITH
MUCH CASH OF THE NAZI PARTY!
THESE MEN WOULD FEAR
BATMAN AND ROBIN!

SO THE THING
YOU TANGLED
WITH MAY BE
THE COLONEL'S
EX-CHARGE!

HEY! NAY!
FOR ME -!

NEGATIVE
SCH, YOU'RE
NOT! I
NEED REST!
STAY IN!
I'LL KEEP
YOU POSTED

HEY! NAY!
FOR ME -!

NEGATIVE
SCH, YOU'RE
NOT! I
NEED REST!
STAY IN!
I'LL KEEP
YOU POSTED



I WILL MIX WITH ORDINARY
SLEEK SCHLOPS!

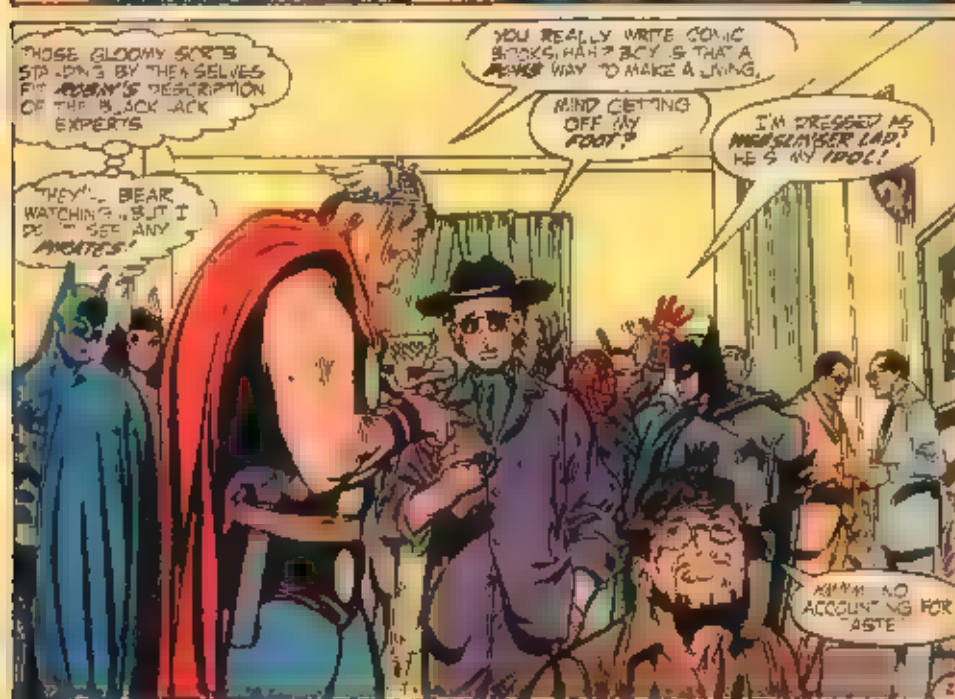
GIVE A HOLLER
IF YOU SPOT
HIM! A **COLD**
HOLLER!

HI! I'M YOUR
HOST... TOM
FAGAN!



WHERE'D YOU GET
THE **BAT** COSTUME? IT'S
GREAT! BETTER THAN
MINE! AND YOU'VE
GOT THE **ANGLES**
TO GO WITH IT!

UH, THANKS!
I **COPIED**
A LOT!



THOSE GLOOMY SORTS
STAY DOWN BY THEMSELVES
FIT **ROBBY**'S DESCRIPTION
OF THE **BLACK LACK**
EXPERTS

THEY'LL BEAR
WATCHING... BUT I
DO... SEE ANY
ANGLES!

YOU REALLY WRITE COMIC
BOOKS, HAH? BOY, IS THAT A
POWER WAY TO MAKE A LIVING.

MIND GETTING
OFF MY
FOOT?

I'M DRESSED AS
NEWSSENDER LAD!
HE'S MY **IDOL**!

MINOR NO
ACCOUNTING FOR
ASTE

I THINK THESE
SUPER-HERO
BAGGIES ARE
ABOUT DON'T
YOU?



I'M...UH... LEARNING
TO LIKE EM. WHY
DON'T WE GO SOME-
WHERE AND ENJOY
THE AFTER?

NOT GO
TO DO E-ET
CIRCULATE
AND MORE FOR
A BREAK!

EVENING, OUTSIDE.

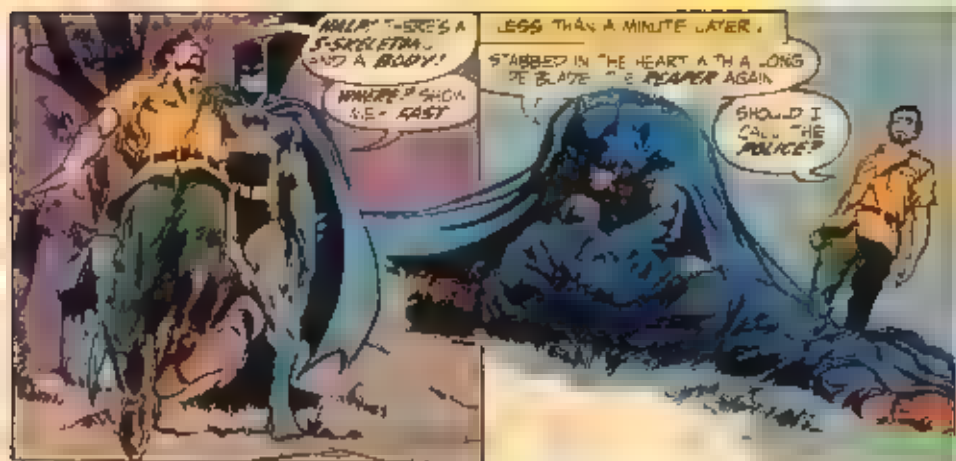


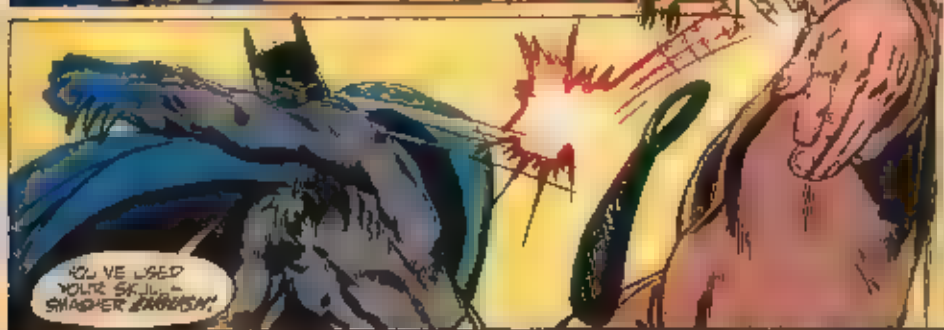
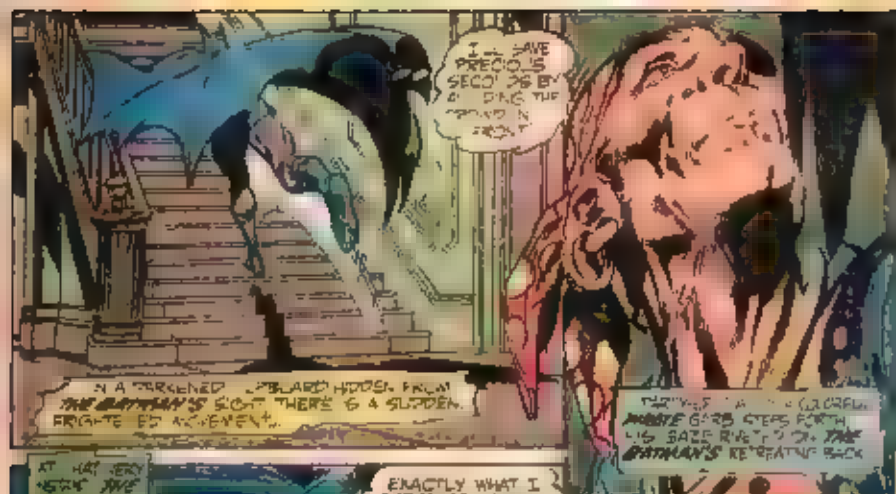
MAN, THAT BUNKING
RED LIGHT ON TOP OF
THE HOUSE IS COOL!
ALMOST AS COOL
AS FLOAT'S!



DO
YOU
DIG
FLCA...OON!

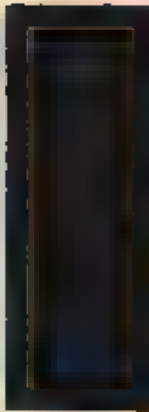
HA-HA-HA-HEHE!

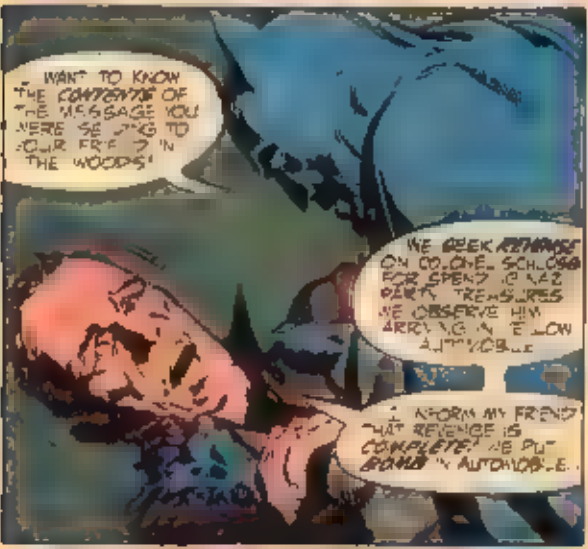


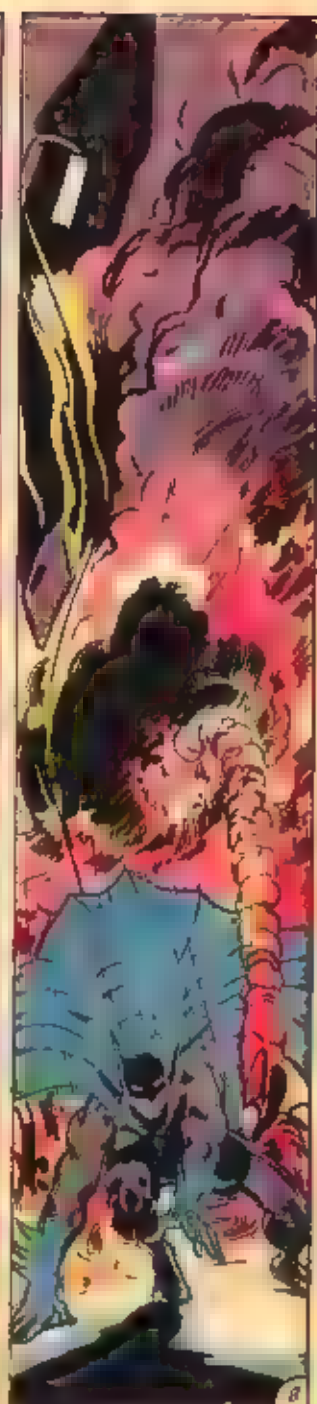




BUT BEFORE THE EX-NAT CAN TRIGGER HIS JUSTICE THE LIGHT SWITCHES OFF...









"IT'S
FINALLY
SAID"



"BUT...
I'M
OKAY"

"OH SURE
-IT'S STILL
GREAT!
THREE MEN
SLAIN"



"INC. THIS AN INNOCENT
BYSTANDER WHOSE ONLY FAULT
WAS WEARING MY COSTUME?
YOU TELL ME MURDERER HIS
OPINION... JUST EXACTLY
HOW GREAT I AM"

"IT WASN'T
YOUR FAULT"



"ANYWAY THE
CASE IS
CLOSED..."

"DON'T BE
STOPPED, KID SURE.
THE MAN'S BOOBY-
RAPPED SCISSORS.
BUT THEY HAD NO
REASON TO HURDER
HE MAN DRESSED
AS ME"

"NOR
THEIR OWN
CONSPIRACY!"



"THEY DIDN'T EVEN
KNOW THEIR PAL
WAS DEAD!"

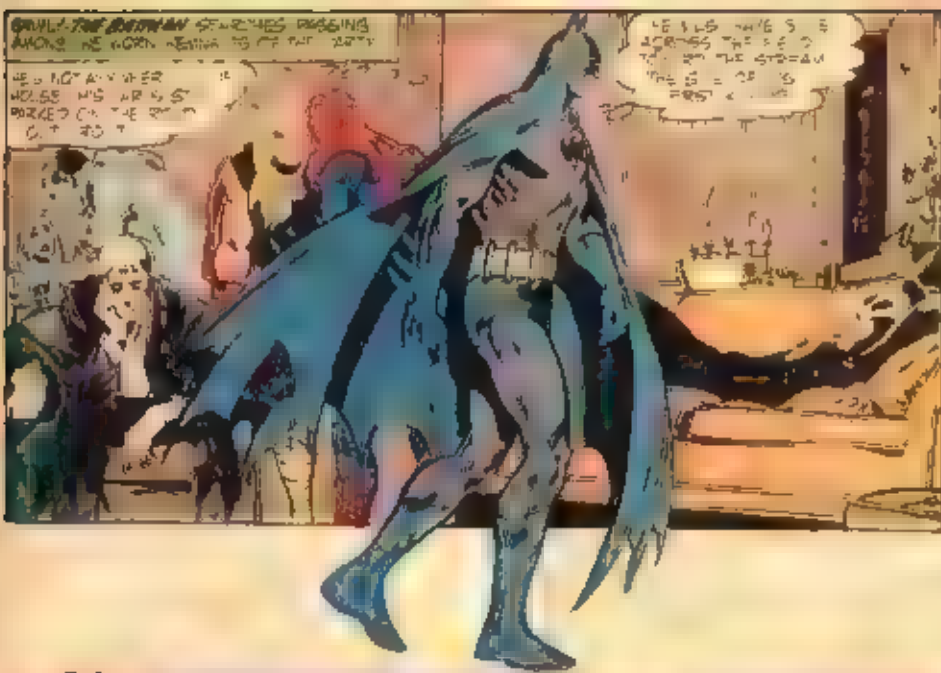
"NO, THE REASON IS YES
TO BE STOPPED -AND I'VE
GOT TO DO IT. ALONE!"

"I'VE NEVER
HAD A TASK I
HATED
MORE."

GRIMLY THE BATMAN STARES PASSING
AMONG THE WOODS HEAVY TO AT THE 2277

HE IS NOT ANY OTHER
WOLVES HIS ARMS
POURED ON THE ROAD
ON TO

HE IS NOT ANY OTHER
WOLVES HIS ARMS
POURED ON THE ROAD
ON TO



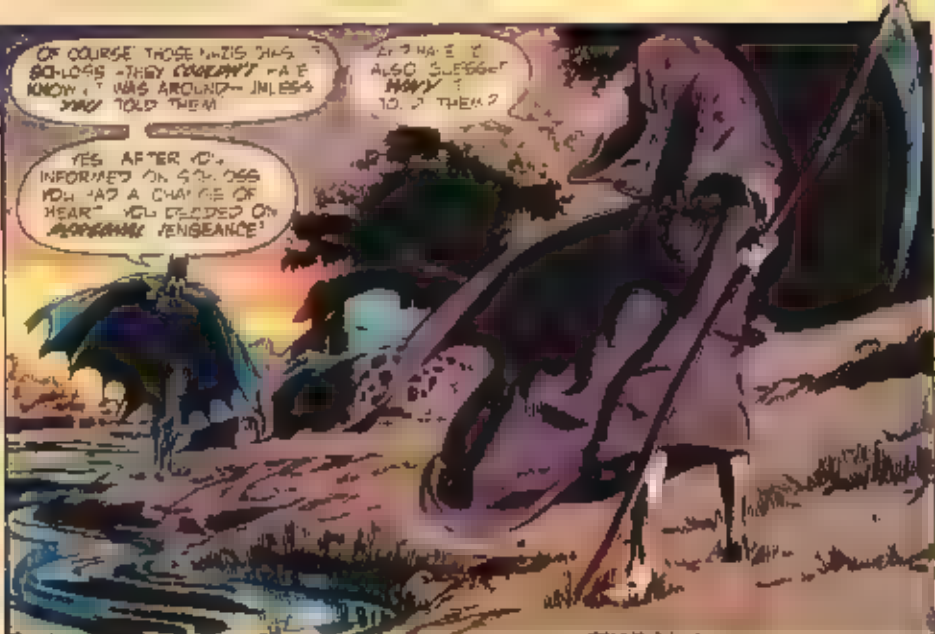
IT IS ONLY THE
LONG GUN IS
GOING NOT
RIBES FROM
THE STREAM
EARTH CHILL
AND
ENVELOPING
AS THE
MEMORY OF
OLD GREEK
SLONY, THE
BATMAN STALKS
HIS QUARRY

AT AS HE EMERGED FROM THE WOODS AND A.S. HE EMERGED
IS WHY HE CREATES THERE IS NO THUNDER IN HIS VOICE



I CAN'T RUN
ANY FARTHER
I CAN'T ESCAPE
FROM ME
OR YOURSELF

"BEN, YOU
HAVE GUESSED
MY IDENTITY?"



OF COURSE THOSE NAZIS HAS
SO-LOS - THEY COULDN'T HAVE
KNOW I WAS AROUND-- UNLESS
YOU TOLD THEM

AND HAVE I
ALSO SLEPT
WITH
10. 2 THEM?

YES AFTER YOU
INFORMED ON SO-LOS
YOU HAD A CHANGE OF
HEART? YOU DECIDED ON
ADDITIONAL VENGEANCE?

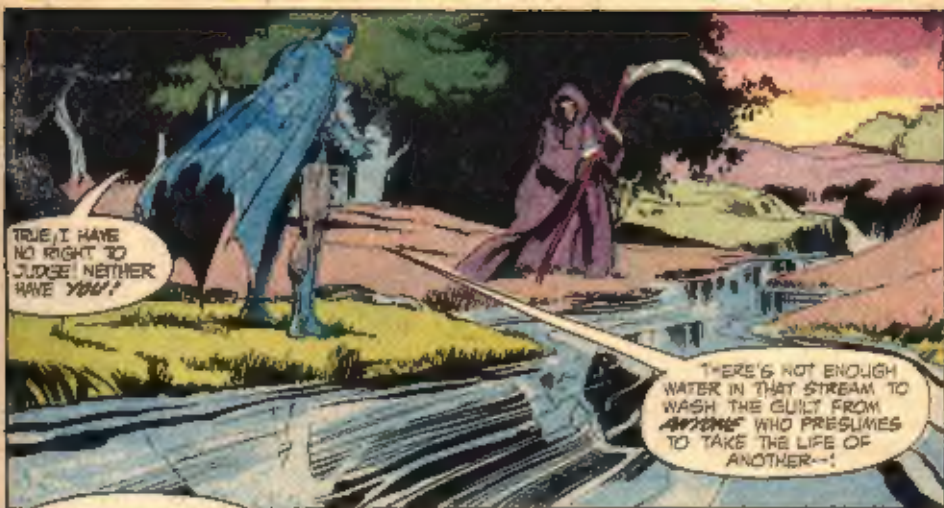


AND HE WAS BETTER RIGHT? MY
FATHER... MY SISTERS. I
SAW THE BUTCHER EJECT HIS
PISTOL AT THEIR BODIES

I HEARD HIM LAUGH
AS THEIR BLOOD FLOURED
ONTO THE FLOTH OF THE
CAMP

WHO ARE YOU
TO JUDGE ME? YOU WHO
HAVE NOT WITNESSED THE
HORROR OF THOSE DAYS

STILL, I AM AWARE
FROM SLEEP
SOMETIMES I FEEL
THE ASHES...
SMELL THE SMOKE
OF THE EXECUTION
CHAMBER - SENT
TO THE HELPLESS
CRYING OF BABIES





HE'S STRONG...
WITH THE STRENGTH
OF **MADNESS!**
SOMETHING IN ME
WANTS TO LET HIM
GO! IN HIM, I SEE
GONE OF MYSELF!

LIKE HIM, I
LOST PARENTS
TO EVIL... NO
**THIS WAY IS
WRONG!**



I'M TELLIN' YA,
IT'S TRUE. IT WAS
DEATH! HE
HAD A GIANT
GICKLE AND
HE WAS ALL
BONES...

C'MON, ALAN,
YOU'VE BEEN
HALF-BAGGED
ALL NIGHT!
YOU'RE JUST...



NO...NO! NOW, LISTEN,
I SAW IT... I SWEAR, THIS
DEATH GUY ATTACKED ME
AND THEN **BARMAN**
JUMPS OUT OF
NOWHERE...



...AND...HEY, GUYS! WHAT'S UP...ALL
OF A SUDDEN YOU **BELIEVE** ME?...

HEY, C'MON...THE
STORY'S NOT THAT
SCARY!



